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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AN 2 2 2004

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December 20, 2000

EXAMINER:

FOR:

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Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed December 16, 2003, the following response is respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application. Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.